

## Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health - Budget Cuts Impact Human Services

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Substance abuse and mental health programs had a great deal of discussion during this legislative session. This provided the opportunity to dialogue and share what our services mean to individuals, their families and their lives.

The effect on substance abuse programs mainly focused on a reduction of the Drug Offender Program (DORA) and Drug Courts. DORA was reduced from \$4.6 million to just over \$2 million, while Drug Court was reduced by a million dollars. Additionally, local authorities lost nearly \$400,000 in provider rate roll backs.

The impact on mental health programs included the reduction of \$1.75 million to treatment services and a provider roll back of nearly one million dollars. The State Hospital beds were funded at the last moment which insured that no beds would be lost this year to local authorities. There was \$150,000 appropriated to study the Utah State Hospital to determine if there was a business case for privatization.

Several programs were being discussed for reductions, but one-time money was used to keep these programs in place in hopes that the economy would turn around. The local authorities are also able to keep adjustments in the federal Medicaid match rate that was increased, bringing additional revenue into mental health and substance abuse programs.

The net effect to DSAMH programs was minor compared to what was initially being discussed. We are able to maintain the infrastructure of all of our programs and systems which will allow us to build on them in the future as funding is available.

I appreciate the hard work, professionalism and level of caring for clients and their families throughout this process. We are able to continually point to the good work that is being done and show the benefit it is to the clients and their communities. We continue to have integrity in the work we do and plan on focusing on positive goals for the future. We have done much in the way of advancing recovery, insuring person-centered planning, improving outcome measures, and increasing wellness with a goal of providing services to all those with substance abuse and/or mental health needs.